REMARKS

In response to the above-referenced Office Action, the Assignee submits the below remarks and respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in light of these remarks.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 9-11, 16-18, 21, 23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,233,576 (Lewis) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,584,568 (Dircks) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,044,466 (Anand).

None of these references, however, teach the invention as claimed. In fact, the Examiner agrees that non of these references teach the claimed invention individually, but states that it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of the cited references to make the claimed invention. This hypothetical combination of the references, however, still fails to teach the claimed invention.

Lewis does not teach or suggest the invention as claimed. The Examiner agrees that Lewis does not teach at least *associating with at least one of the clients a preference information that reflects one or more preferences of the clients, and creating a client profile for at least one of the clients based on the preference information and the permission information associated with the client and managing relationships between clients via the electronic communication medium with respect to the digital facility based on the profiles of the clients*. The Examiner states, however, that Lewis in combination with Dricks teaches the above elements. The Assignee respectfully disagrees for the reasons presented below.

Dricks discloses a desktop administration system wherein user desktops are managed remotely by using a .sec file including information specifying a menu of computer programs and network resources to be referenced by a particular desktop. *See* Abstract; col. 7, ll. 40-57. Although Dricks mentions that an .sec file may be associated with each user, Dricks fails to disclose any relationship between users. Moreover, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Dricks that the disclosed system manages relationships between users based on information contained in the .sec files. In fact, the information contained in the .sec files is not useful for managing relationships between users, as it includes information specific to desktop content of individual

10

users, and it does not include any information relating to desktop or user relationships. In fact, none of the information stored in the .sec files is disclosed as being useful for *managing relationships between clients via the electronic communication medium with respect to the digital facility.* Thus, the combination of Lewis and Dricks will not arrive at the invention as claimed, as Dricks does not disclose profiles that can be used in *managing relationships between clients via the electronic communication medium.*

Moreover, the Examiner acknowledges that neither Lewis nor Dricks discloses or suggests *user permission with respect to at least on of the digital facilities is determined by a combination of an individual permission and a company permission.* The Examiner states, however, that it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Lewis, Dricks and Anand to arrive at *user permission is determined by a combination of an individual permission and a company permission.*

Anand discloses a mechanism for restricting downloaded executables from accessing resources, such as private files, of a user downloading the executables. *See* col. 3, ll. 15-67. Permissions are being derived by the disclosed mechanism to ensure that unauthorized accesses to resources are not performed. The disclosed permissions, however, are not associated with either a user or a company, they are associated with downloaded executables. Moreover, there is no disclosure in Anand of combining a plurality of permissions of separate entities, such as a client and a company, to arrive at the ultimate permission, as the Examiner suggests. *See* Office Action at p. 4. The derivation calculations disclosed in Anand are based on maximal and current permissions propositions for the downloading principal, which is one entity. The Examiner is reminded that it is impermissible to base an obviousness rejection on information gleaned from the application's disclosure. Specifically it is impermissible to base an obviousness rejection on a notion that it would have been obvious to categorize permissions disclosed in Anand, as Anand itself does not even remotely suggest categorization of permissions for separate entities. Thus, it would not have been obvious to combine the teachings of Anand with the teachings of Lewis and Dricks, as Anand does not disclose or even suggest that user permission may be *determined by a combination of an individual permission and a company permission.*

11

Appl. No.: 09/478,112

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Attorney Docket: EPI-027 US
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CONCLUSION

The Assignee submits that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 have been addressed, and

withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested. The Assignee furthermore submits that all

pending claims are in condition for allowance, which is earnestly solicited.

Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested. The

Examiner is invited to call the Assignee's attorney at the number below to further advance

prosecution of this case to issuance.

DATE: January 28, 2005   Respectfully submitted,
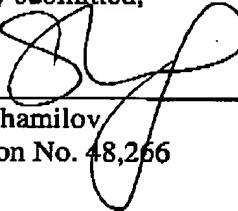
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PAGE 16/16 * RCVD AT 1/28/2005 5:54:51 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/4 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:6508494800 * DURATION (mm-ss):05-16